Attacks on Journalists and Cameramen at Meham

1894. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported attacks on journalists and cameramen at Meham during the polling on 27th and 28th of February ;

(b) the number of journalists injured in the said incidents ; and

(c) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to ensure security of journalists covering elections, demonstrations, etc. in future ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Full facts are being obtained from the State Government.

(c) Under the VII Schedule to the Constitution 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State Subjects. The primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order during elections thus directly devolves on the State Government.

कुल्लू टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज में एस०टी०डी० सुविधा का उपलब्ध कराया जाना

1895. **श्री सुशील बरोंगपा :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुल्लू टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज से एस.टी.डी. सुविधा शुरू करने के लिए अभी तक कार्य शुरू नहीं किया गया है हांलाकि इसके लिए सभी आवश्यक उपकरण पिछली सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध करा दिए गए थे, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस कार्य को निकट भविष्य में पूरा करने या इसे लम्बित रखने का विचार रखती है ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री, साथ में संचार मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री के०पी० उन्नीकृष्णन) : (क) जी, नहीं। यह सच नहीं है।

(ख) इनसैट-1डी के माध्यम से उपग्रह क्षमता के सुलभ होते ही इस कार्य को पूरा करने की योजना है।

Working of the Technology Mission on Communication

1896. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :—

(a) whether a Committee has been appointed to go into the working of the technological mission on communication headed by Shri Sam Patroda ; and

(b) if so, who are the members and the Committee's terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) No committee has been appointed to go into the working of Technology Mission. However, a Committee has been set up to assess the working of C-DOT.

(b) The names of the Members of this Committee and its terms of reference are given in the Statement.